

NOTES

Kalmia polifolia:

Second Record from the Arctic

ACCORDING to Dr. Polunin, in his *Circumpolar Arctic Flora* (1959), "*Kalmia polifolia* . . . just qualifies for admission to the arctic flora on the basis of a single collection from the southeastern portion of the Canadian Western Arctic." The Güssow collection cited by Polunin is in the Phanerogamic Herbarium of the Canada Department of Agriculture. W. J. Cody, curator of the herbarium, informs me that it was obtained in 1932 at Maguse Lake (61° 30' N, 95° 10' W), which is about fifty miles northwest of Eskimo Point on the western shore of Hudson Bay. This locality is about twenty-five miles beyond the tree line. During August 1962 I collected *Kalmia polifolia* at Contwoyto Lake (65° 45' N, 111° 15' W) in the Barren Grounds some 200 miles east of Great Bear Lake and nearly fifty miles beyond the tree line. This collection, my number 9415, is apparently the second record of *Kalmia polifolia* from the arctic. Specimens have been deposited in the herbaria of the University of Southwestern Louisiana and the Chicago Natural History Museum.

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Forster's "Hirundo, 35"

IN A PAPER read at a meeting of the Royal Society of London nearly two centuries ago Forster (1772, *Philosophical Transactions of London*, vol. 62, p. 408), reporting on specimens and information sent from Hudson Bay, made the following remarks under the subheading "Hirundo, 35" and pertaining, geographically, to Severn River,—

"The swallows build under the windows, and on the face of steep banks of

the river, they disappear in autumn; and the Indians say they were never found torpid under water, probably because they have no large nets to fish with under the ice. The specimen sent answers in some particulars to the description of the Matrin, *Hirundo Urbica*, Linn., but seems to be smaller, and has no white on the rump. I have, therefore, thought it best to leave the species undetermined, till further informations are received from Hudson's Bay, on this subject".

Practically nothing was known about swallows in Forster's day, especially those of the New World. This is not surprising. Even today one would find it difficult to prove that swallows do, or do not, migrate at night. Forster showed commendable scientific caution in leaving his swallow specimen undetermined.

By the opening of the present century a good deal of information on American swallows had accumulated. At this time we have the comments of Preble (1902, *North American Fauna*, no. 22, p. 123) under the subheading *PETROCHELIDON LUNIFRONS* (Say). Cliff Swallow,—“Forster recorded a specimen sent from Severn River as *Hirundo* no. 35. This is probably the earliest notice of the species, which was not formally described until many years afterward.”

Ridgway (1904, *Bulletin of the United States National Museum* 50, p. 48) followed Preble and placed Forster's "Hirundo, 35" first (earliest) among his synonyms of *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons* (Say). Authors have followed this interpretation since, without question, but what seems to be a shadow of doubt appears in the comments of Manning (1952, *National Museum of Canada Bulletin* 125, p. 71) under the subcaption *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota pyrrhonota* (Vieillot) as follows,—“A swallow briefly described by Forster, who says that they built under the windows at Fort Severn and on the face of the steep banks of the river, appears to be this species”.



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